



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

LIQUID HEROIN IN FRUIT JUICE CONTAINERS SEIZED

Private shipment not destined for U.S. market; no public threat

MIAMI—Five pallets of liquefied heroin hidden in six-ounce liquid fruit juice boxes were intercepted today by Department of Homeland Security agents, and Miami Dade Police Department officers.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers identified and intercepted the private shipment from Colombia after receiving an anonymous tip

Private shipments are goods purchased by individuals and shipped to a location designated by the buyer. The buyer usually picks up the goods personally. Private shipments are not intermingled with imports destined for the U.S. food supply.

ICE agents believe the juice was initially purchased from a grocery store in Colombia. The juice containers were then emptied and refilled with the heroin. The shipment was relabeled and palletized alongside legitimate boxes of Colombian fruit juice and then shipped to the United States.

A field test revealed that nearly 100 juice boxes contained heroin. The heroin had a total weight of 38 kilograms with a wholesale value of more than \$1.7 million dollars.

The product, labeled as "Hit Fruit Drink," never made it to any public markets where it could have been sold for consumption. The Hit Corporation and its facilities were not involved in the repackaging of the drink boxes or the smuggling attempt itself.

"ICE is investigating this case to track and apprehend the drug traffickers responsible" said Jesus Torres, ICE's special agent-in-charge in Miami. "Ingesting liquid heroin like this is typically fatal, so we're very concerned that it would be disguised in a convenience package widely used for products marketed for children. Unfortunately, the actions of reckless drug traffickers taint legitimate companies like the Hit Corporation."

“The use of consumer products to conceal narcotics can be extremely dangerous, if not deadly, to the unsuspecting, “ said Thomas S. Winkowski, director of field operations for the U.S. CBP in Miami. “We have seen narcotics concealed as beer, candy, peanuts and baby formula. Products that look like they've been tampered with should not be used. Report suspected tampering to the local police.”

ICE, CBP and Miami Dade continue to aggressively work this investigation. If anyone has any concerns about a can they think is suspicious, contact ICE at 1-866-DHS-2ICE.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security.